

REMARKS

I. Support for the Amendments

Claims 1-41 were originally in the application. Claims 10-21 and 31-41 are non-elected claims withdrawn without prejudice to pursuing them in an appropriate divisional or continuation application. Claims 5, 9, 23, 25, 28, and 29 have been amended in response to the Examiner's objection to the multiple dependent claim format. Claims 5, 9, 23, 25, 28, and 29 now conform to United States dependent claim practice. New claims 42-46 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Support for amended claims 5, 9, 23, 25, 28, and 29 can be found in the original specification and claims. The amendments to these claims are simply a matter of form.

Support for new claims 42-46 can be found in the original specification and claims, particularly in claims 5, 9, and 28-30, respectively.

Additional support for amended claim 5 and new claim 42 can be found, e.g., from page 7, line 29, to page 8, line 10; from page 9, line 9, to page 10, line 2; on page 13, lines 1-25; on page 14, lines 21-26; on page 16, lines 1-2; from page 17, line 27, to page 18, line 2; and in the Examples. Additional support for amended claims 9 and 28 and new claims 43 and 44 can be found, e.g., from page 8, line 28, to page 9, line 5; on page 9, lines 23-24; on page 13, lines 5-8 and 21-29; from page 17, line 7, to page 18, line 13; on page 19, lines 9-16; and in the Examples. Additional support for amended claim 23 can be found, e.g., from page 8, line 24, to page 9, line 5; on page 9, lines 9-14; on page 14, lines 7-13 and lines 17-20; on page 15, lines 5-24; on page 19, lines 27-31; and in the Examples. Additional support for amended claims 25 and 28 can be found, e.g., from page 8, line 24, to page 9, line 14; on page 14, lines 11-13; from page 14, line 28, to page 15, line 24; on page 17, lines 9-11; on page 20, lines 1-3; and in the Examples.

Additional support for amended claim 29 and new claims 45 and 46 can be found, e.g., from page 7, line 31, to page 8, line 5; on page 8, lines 12-23; from page 9, line 7, to page 10, line 2; on page 13, lines 1-19; on page 14, lines 7-13; from page 14, line 21, to page 15, line 3; on page 16, line 25-27; on page 19, lines 27-31; on page 20, lines 1-3; from page 21, line 30, to page 22, line 6; on page 22, lines 22-24; and in the Examples.

II. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-41 were originally in the application. Claims 1-41 are subject to an election/restriction requirement, and Group I (claims 1-9 and 22-30) is hereby elected with traverse. Claims 10-21 and 31-41 are non-elected claims hereby withdrawn without prejudice to pursuing them in an appropriate divisional or continuation application. New claims 42-46 have been added.

III. The Objection Under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) is Accommodated in Part and Rendered Moot

The Examiner has objected to claims 5, 9, 23, 25, 28, 29, and 38 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being in improper form for multiple dependency. Applicants have amended claims 5, 9, 23, 25, 28, and 29 in the Second Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, submitted herewith. Claim 38 is withdrawn as non-elected, without prejudice to pursuit in an appropriate divisional or continuation application.

IV. Conclusion

It is believed that all outstanding rejections have been addressed by this submission and that all the claims are in condition for allowance. If discussion of any amendment or remark made herein would advance this important case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned as soon as convenient.

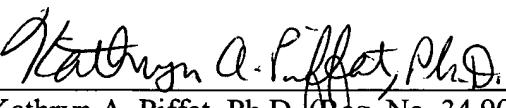
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is respectfully considered in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Applicant hereby requests a two-month extension of time for the Amendment and accompanying materials. If, however, a petition for an additional extension of time is required, then the Examiner is requested to treat this as a conditional petition for an additional extension of time. Although it is not believed that any fee is required, in addition to the fee submitted herewith, to consider this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 3, 2004

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